

EXHIBIT L



GlidePoint: finger navigation. (Cirque Corp's pointing device) (Hardware Review) (First Looks)(Evaluation) (Brief Article)

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471 words
13 September 1994
PC Magazine
PCM
44
Vol. 13, No. 15, ISSN: 0888-8507
English
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Traveling executive's nightmare number 37: While you're finishing tomorrow's presentation on your flight home, your notebook's pointer locks in place, and no amount of playing with the trackball frees it. After you open the trackball to clean the actuator wheels, the ball slips out of your fingers and rolls down the aisle. Suddenly, you're flying in coach and your ball is riding in first class. Cirque Corp.'s **GlidePoint** Portable, a unique nonmechanical pointing device, rules out such airline ball games and lets you sleep easy.

The flat **GlidePoint** Portable (3.4 by 2.7 by 0.5 inches) represents the latest thinking in pointing devices. To control the pointer, just run your **finger** across or just above the unit's motion-sensitive surface. Clicking is accomplished by tapping one of the two mechanical buttons at the bottom of the unit or by tapping the **GlidePoint**'s surface. Long, slow movements across the screen may require you to lift and reposition your **finger**. It takes a few minutes to become familiar with the **GlidePoint** and just a day or so to become truly comfortable.

The **GlidePoint** identifies and tracks the center of your **finger** by detecting changes in the electrical field above the unit's surface. There are no moving parts in the unit, so it is unlikely to stick the way most trackballs do. In more than a month of daily use, we had no significant problems.

The unit connects to a PS/2 mouse port via a 3-foot cable (there is no serial-port version) and can comfortably be used next to the computer, above the computer's keyboard, or even in your opposite hand. The **GlidePoint** includes a 6-foot extension cable for desktop users.

This first commercial product from Cirque had some glitches. The pointer froze when a Toshiba Satellite T1900C laptop using the **GlidePoint**'s drivers awoke from sleep mode. The resume function worked fine when we used the **GlidePoint** with Microsoft Mouse 9.0 drivers. Cirque says it will offer a Mouse 9.0-compatible driver by early fall.

While resembling the trackpad built into Apple's new 500 series of PowerBooks, the **GlidePoint** works on a different principle. The Apple device can track only your **finger**, and clicking still requires the use of mechanical buttons.

Cirque is working with computer vendors to incorporate the **GlidePoint** into future portable PCs. We hope they will. Portable users will quickly tire of using clumsy, breakdown-prone pointing devices when a more elegant solution is available.

GlidePoint Portable. List price: \$99. Requires: PS/2 mouse port. Cirque Corp., 2850 East 3300 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84109; 800-454-3375, 801-467-1100.

illustration photograph

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